

# AMERICAN Journal of Philately.

*A Monthly Journal devoted to the interests of Stamp Collectors.*

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## THE EARLY ISSUES OF SWITZERLAND.

PAPER READ BEFORE THE COLLECTORS CLUB BY JOHN N. LUFF AND

ILLUSTRATED WITH STEREOPTICON VIEWS BY JOS. S. RICH.

The early Stamps of Switzerland are attractive in their designs and coloring and have been much sought by collectors. For the same reasons they have attracted the attention of counterfeiters. Until late years little was known about the stamps and few collectors could tell the good from the bad. Hence forgers had little difficulty in placing their wares and many otherwise good collections contained counterfeit Swiss stamps.

We will endeavor this evening to point out some of the distinguishing marks of the genuine and fraudulent stamps.

The most important publication on this subject is a treatise by Freiherr C. Von Girsewald, which first appeared in the *Postwertzeichen Kunde*. I am using as the basis of my remarks the translation of this work which is published by our fellow-member, Mr. Mekeel, to which I have added some observations of my own and also a few corrections.

The early stamps of Switzerland may be divided into three groups: Those issued by the Cantons; those issued by the central government during the transition period, for use in certain districts; and finally those issued by the Republic for use throughout Switzerland.

We shall try as far as possible to show the original and counterfeit stamps together. When a group of four stamps are shown, it may be understood that the one in the upper left corner is genuine and the other three are forgeries.\*

### CANTON OF BASEL.

(*Illustration.*) This stamp was used for the postal service of the City of Basel, as is indicated by the inscription "Stadt Post Basel." It is fre-

\*For the benefit of readers of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY we give a plate illustrating the genuine stamps, in place of the photographic slides shown on the screen.

quently spoken of as the "dove of Basel," though the bird is probably intended for a carrier pigeon.

The mark commonly used to identify the genuine stamps is a little dot between the inner and outer frame lines of the coat of arms and over the space between the letters s and e of "Basel." It is always found on the genuine stamps and seldom, if ever, on the counterfeits.

Near the upper corners of the shield are two leaf-shaped ornaments. That on the left is rather broader and shorter than the one on the right and also touches the inner frame line of the stamp. In the counterfeits these ornaments are usually poorly imitated, and the one on the right is never sufficiently narrow and usually touches the frame.

There are two arabesques in the upper corners, resting on a straight line drawn across the stamp. The tip of the left-hand arabesque is more hooked than that on the right. Neither of them touches the frame, while in all the counterfeits I have seen it is touched by the arabesque on the left. There are curved lines running from the central ornament to the arabesques. The curve on the left merely touches the horizontal line while that on the right becomes part of the line. In the counterfeits these curved lines are alike on both sides and usually blend with the horizontal line. Her Von Girsewald claims that there is a slight depression in the horizontal line at the point where the right arabesque rests, but I have never been able to see it.

There is no period after "Basel" and the period after "Rp." in the right lower corner is opposite the middle of the head of the "p." Some of the counterfeits have a period after "Basel" and the period after "Rp." is often placed too high or too low.

In the counterfeits shown you will notice that the dove is too large. In two cases the tail touches the frame of the shield and in the third the wings touch it. On very clearly printed copies of the genuine stamps it may be seen that the lower fork of the tail touches the frame, but as a rule the point of contact is covered by the red of the shield.

On the counterfeits the net work in the corners will be found to be too coarse or wanting entirely.

In the genuine stamps the "o" of "Post" is narrow, rather pointed and neatly upright. In the counterfeits this letter is too broad and leans to the right.



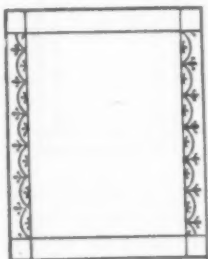
The usual cancellation is a date in a double-lined circle, with "Basel" above and "Vor-Mittag" or "Nach-Mittag" (before or after midday) below. This is generally stamped in red. We also find the word "FRANCO" in an irregular octagon, stamped in red or black. The letters "P. P." in an oval are also found, but not often.

The counterfeits are usually cancelled with a small single-line circle with the name of the city and perhaps a date.

## CANTON OF ZÜRICH.

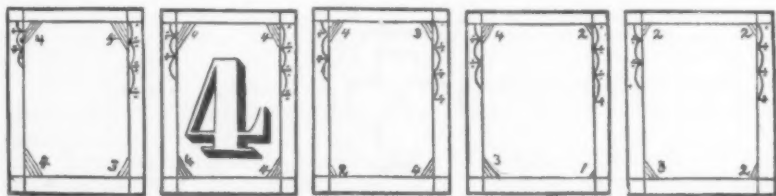
(*Illustration.*) The general design of the Zürich stamps is a large numeral on a back-ground of crossed diagonal lines. These lines are in groups of four, and are, of course, in black like the rest of the design. There is also an overprinting of red lines, either vertical or horizontal. The 4 rappen stamps are scarcest with the horizontal lines and the 6 rappen with the vertical. These red lines are sometimes missing, but it seems uncertain if such stamps are errors, essays, reprints or the result of some chemical change.

At the top of the stamps is the word "Zürich" on a lined background. There is always an umlaut on the letter "u." On type II. of the 6 rappen the word is followed by a period. The inscription at the bottom is "Local-Tax" on the 4 rappen and "Cantonal-Tax" on the 6 rappen, thus indicating the purpose of each value. In both cases the words are joined by



a hyphen. Its absence is sure proof of a counterfeit. The panels at the sides are filled by ornaments of loops and dots. There are six and a half loops on each side, the half loop being at the top on the left side and at the bottom on the right. The corners are filled by groups of five dots on a background of crossed lines. Stamps with the figures of the date 1843 in the corners are, of course, counterfeits.

The stamps are printed in rows of five, each stamp being of a different type. The rows are repeated to form a sheet of fifty stamps. The originals may be told from the counterfeits by observing the groups of lines in the corners.



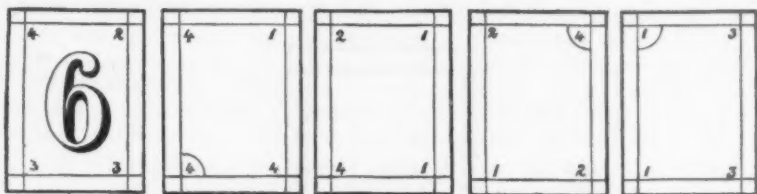
We show you tracings of the different groups of lines on the 4 rappen stamps. You will notice that no two stamps have the same arrangement of lines in the four corners. It is sometimes difficult to tell if there are two lines or only one in the left lower corner of type III, but on clear copies two

lines are distinctly visible. Type II has further distinguishing features. In some copies we find a defect in the top of the arm of the figure 4, and in



others there is indentation in the top of the 4.

There is a very fine counterfeit of type V, having the lines in the corners correctly grouped, but the hyphen between "Local" and "Taxe" is missing.



We show you also a drawing of the arrangement of the corner lines in the 6 rappen. In some cases, owing to indistinct printing, a stamp will appear to have one less line in a corner than we indicate. These doubtful corners are marked by curved lines in our sketch.



Type I is specially marked. In the right upper corner the two middle lines of the first group are nearer together than usual and the longest line of the second group appears very heavy or even as two thin lines close together.



The cancellation is very like one used on the early stamps of Great Britain. It is a cross surrounded by a rosette. Stamps were cancelled in red in the city Zurich and in black outside the city. This cancellation has been extremely well imitated. After 1849 the stamps were cancelled with various other designs.

## CANTON OF GENEVA.

**THE DOUBLE GENEVA.** (*Illustration*) This stamp consists of two 5 centime stamps united across the top by a band inscribed "Port Cantonal." The two halves paid the rate for the Canton, or either half was available for use in the city of Geneva, for which reason each half was inscribed "Port Local."

The stamps are frequently cut apart up to the band across the top. This was done by the clerks in the post office, as a matter of convenience. Pairs are also known composed of halves from two different stamps.

The distinguishing marks are :

On the left hand stamp the inscribed scroll above the shield touches the inner frame line on the right but is far from the frame on the left. On the right-hand stamp the scroll nearly touches the frame at the left but is far from it at the right. The "G" of "Genève," on the right stamp, touches the upper frame line and the word is followed by a period. On the same stamp the word "de" does not touch the frame and is much obscured by the rays around the letters "I. H. S." On the left stamp the "G" of "Genève" does not touch the frame, there is no period after the word, "de" stands clear of the rays, the top of the "d" has a slanting serif like a figure 1 and touches the frame.

The crown of the eagle on the right is a mere blot and the bill is widely opened. There is one dot between the leg and wing of the eagle on the right but there are three in the same location on the left stamp.

The vertical shading lines back of the key are well drawn and parallel on the right stamp but on the left one they are quite irregular and the one nearest the dividing line of the shield runs into it. On most of the counterfeits those lines are better drawn than on the originals, being well and regularly ruled.

The best test for these stamps is found in the frame, which is composed of a thin inner and a thick outer line. On the left stamp the thin vertical line on the left side extends to the thick lines which cross the top and bottom. On the right stamp the thin vertical line on the right side extends to the thick line across the top and in the upper left corner the thin lines do not join. The best counterfeit I have seen is shown herewith, but you will see that it is lacking at some of the corners.



The usual cancellation mark somewhat resembles that of Zürich. And the counterfeit Zürich mark is frequently used on the counterfeit Geneva stamps.

**THE SMALL EAGLE.** (*Illustration.*) This stamp replaced the double Geneva in 1845. It was available for postage throughout the Canton, as is shown by the inscription, "Port Cantonal." The eagle is small. It does not touch the frame of the shield with its wing, as in the preceding and succeeding issues. The feathers of the tail, however, reach the frame, and one of them crosses the inner line. The eagles on the counterfeits usually look like parrots or ducks.

There is a period after the figure "5" but none after the "C." This period is missing in the counterfeits. In them also the shape of the ribbon with the motto is incorrect, and in one, which we show you, there are no rays around the letters "I. H. S."

The lines back of the key are irregular and wavy in the originals and some of them cross, at the bottom, the thin line of the shield. In the counterfeits they are straight and well drawn and do not cross the line of the shield.

THE LARGE EAGLE. (*Illustration.*) This stamp was issued in 1847 to replace that with the small eagle.

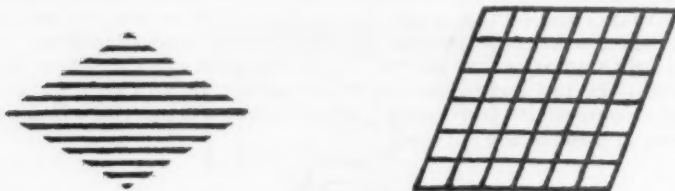
The shield is a trifle broader than in the preceding issue. The eagle is larger and better drawn, especially the head. It touches the frame with its wing but not with its tail.

There is no period after the "5" or the "C." The right end of the ribbon with "Post Tenebras Lux" crosses the thin inner frame line. In many counterfeits it does not even touch the line. Counting from the left, the sixth and seventh lines behind the key cross the inner frame line at the bottom.

In the counterfeits the rays around the letters "I. H. S." are usually extended too far. The "e" of "Poste" extends below the line of the word in the originals but not in the counterfeits.

Herr Von Girsewald speaks of an imitation of the large eagle stamp, printed on pink paper, which he thinks is probably an essay. This is the design shown in the upper right corner of our group. In this case it is printed on green paper (I have it also on pink) and bears the bogus Zurich cancellation. To call it an essay does it far too much honor. It is a very dangerous counterfeit.

We show you here two cancellations used on the later issues of Geneva.



ENVELOPE. (*Illustration.*) The Geneva envelope stamp was largely used as an adhesive. When the Swiss postal authorities took charge of the Geneva post office they found a large quantity of these envelopes on hand. A law was passed sanctioning their use as adhesives. This may probably claim the distinction of being the first provisional stamp, and becomes, therefore, of considerable interest. Used in this way the stamp is very scarce and many of the copies found on original cover bear a false cancellation or are the result of patch-work, a used envelope stamp having been stuck on an envelope after some other stamp had been removed. Failure to correctly join the cancellations usually reveal the latter fraud. It is said that, in preparing the envelope stamp for use as an adhesive, the envelope was cut with a paper-knife at the top and right and with scissors on the other two sides.

The design is similar to that of the adhesive stamps. In the background of the eagle there are no dots at the right of the crown or the left of talon. There are periods after "Genève" and "C." There are twelve lines

behind the key, counting at the top of the shield. The 5th, 6th and 7th lines touch the post hole of the key, but the 6th does not touch the frame. There is only one line at the right between the key and the frame.

Most counterfeits of the envelope stamps are made from the designs used to counterfeit the adhesives and differ much from the originals, especially in the number of lines between the key and the frame.

On the counterfeits, as a rule, the eagle has no crown and there is no period after "C."

In the lower left corner of our group we show you a dangerous counterfeit which has many points of the original but lacks the period after the "C." The "P" of "Poste" also touches the frame and other minute differences will be found on careful comparison. This also bears the bogus Zürich cancellation.



The regular cantonal cancellation was used on these envelope stamps also the rosette shown here and the letters "P. D." in a circle.

#### FEDERAL DISTRICT STAMPS.

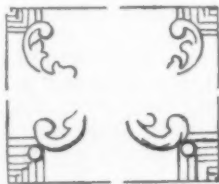
These stamps were issued by the central government after the union of the Cantons into the Confederacy. The different coins and money systems in use in the various Cantons made it difficult to arrange a uniform postal rate. A national issue could not be made without time and careful consideration. So temporary stamps were found necessary. These are now usually known as the federal district stamps, though at one time they were ascribed to the cantons of Neuchâtel, Vaud and Winterthur.

The country was divided into eleven districts, only two of which are of interest to us.

1st District. Canton of Geneva and the Vaudois district of Nyon.

8th District. Cantons of Schaffhouse, Thurgovia, Zug and Zürich.

FIRST DISTRICT. In September, 1849, a 4 centime stamp (*Illustration*) was issued for this district. It was replaced by a 5 centime stamp (*Illustration*) of the same design, in the following November. Only 5,000 of the 4 centime stamps were issued. These stamps were at one time considered to be cantonal stamps of Vaud.



The counterfeits are extremely well made. The most notable differences are to be found in the corners, where the ruled lines forming the background

should meet but frequently do not, as is shown in the accompanying drawing. You will notice that the frame lines do not meet in the upper left corner and that in the right corners certain lines lack mates. The arabesques above the posthorn touch the "P" of "Poste," and the "E" of "Locale." The corners of the counterfeits are often too carefully ruled.

Issue of December, 1850. (*Illustration.*) This is usually called the Neuchatel stamp. The distinguishing marks of the originals are quite simple; the "s" of Centimes leans to the right, over the first "L" of "Locale" is an arabesque like a figure "8," and in the lower left corner another like a headless "5."

Most of the counterfeits are palpably wrong in the lettering or arabesques. Some of them have the cross framed, which is not the case with the originals. There is, however, one counterfeit which is very like the originals. In it the "s" of "Centimes" is upright, the broken "5" in the lower corner is nearly correct and the "8" above "Locale" is in its place, but it is inverted, having the largest part at the top.

EIGHTH DISTRICT. (*Illustration.*) This is the so-called Winterthur stamp. The general design is an ornate shield bearing a posthorn, within the ring of which is a double-lined cross. The posthorn is suspended from the top frame by cords, cross lines divide the left cord into eight sections and the right into nine. On most counterfeits these cords look more like strings of beads and the number of sections is incorrect. The lines which imitate the wrapping of the cord around the ring of the horn form groups. Counting from the left, there are in the groups 4,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  and 3 lines. In most counterfeits these lines are wanting entirely and in none are they correctly grouped. Similar lines on the horn below the cross are much broken in the originals and heavier and more complete in the counterfeits.

There are four marks across the bell of the horn, the third of which does not touch the left side.

There is a band, joining the neck to the ring of the horn, opposite the "P" of "Orts Post." This is often wanting in the counterfeits. The cross lines near the mouth piece are usually incorrectly placed in the counterfeits.

There are periods after the "R" in the N. W. and S. E. corners and the second "O" of "Orts post" is broken on the upper side.

The usual cancellation is the rosette of Zurich, stamped in black or blue; it is not known in red.

**P.P.**

The letters "P. P." and lines, both in black, were also used.

#### GENERAL ISSUE.

ORTS POST. (*Illustration.*) These stamps are printed in sheets of 160, four blocks of forty different types, arranged in five rows of eight stamps each. The differences lie in the inscription, the value and the ornamental back ground. The 40 types may be found with the cross framed in black lines and without frame. Which variety was issued first and why the change was made are unsettled questions.

We show you a full plate of the 40 varieties. We believe this has not hitherto been attempted with the stereopticon.

Having so many types it is necessary to have a good photograph or re-

production of the plate in order to identify a stamp. The ornamental lines in the upper left corner show the differences very clearly and are generally used



in locating a stamp. We show enlargements of this corner of numbers 20 and 21 on the plate, which will give an idea of the differences in the background lines



The mouth-piece of the post horn is slightly wider than the neck. Groups of lines cross the horn. They count, from either right or left, 2, 3, 3, 2. On the counterfeits these groups are seldom correctly imitated.

**POST LOCALE.** (*Illustration*). The design is very similar to that of the Orts Post stamps, the most notable difference being the change in the inscription. Of these stamps, also, we show you the full plate.

There are again 40 types, both with and without the frame around the cross. Those without the frame are rare used and, when unused, are the rarest of the Swiss stamps. Their rarity has tempted the fakirs and it will be well for anyone buying one of these stamps to make sure the frame has not been erased by chemical or other means.

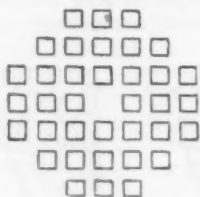
These stamps may be located on the plate in the same manner as the Orts Post or by the easier way of noting the shape and position of certain little hooks below "2½" and "Rp."



The tracing which we show of numbers 17 and 18 will give you a good idea of these hooks. They vary greatly in size, sometimes being reduced to a dot and on some copies wanting entirely.

There are only three groups of lines crossing the horn, instead of four as on the Orts Post stamps. These groups, counting from the left, show 4, 3 and 2 lines. The ring of the horn is indicated by three lines, while that of the Orts Post stamps is indicated by two.

The counterfeits of the Orts Post are frequently used, with a changed label, to imitate the Post Locale stamps, but if these two distinctions are kept in mind, we may readily identify this class of counterfeits.



We find these cancellations on the Orts Post and Post Locale stamps, as well as many previously in use.

RAYONS I., II. and III., values 5, 10 and 15 rappen and 15 centimes. The word rayon signifies circle or letter district. The stamps of Rayon I. carried a letter between offices not more than two hours apart. Rayon II. was for distances that could be covered in two to ten hours. And Rayon III. for use between offices more than ten hours apart.

RAYON I., value 5 rappen. (*Illustration.*) The stamps were printed in black, red and blue on white paper and not, as is often stated, in black and red on blue paper. There are many shades of the blue.

The design is similar to the preceding Orts Post and Post Locale stamps. There are again 40 varieties, as in the picture shown herewith, both with and without the frame around the cross, the former being the scarcer.

The counterfeits may be told by comparison of the background lines, as in the preceding stamps. In 1851 the stamps were printed from the same plate in pale blue and red on white paper. We have, therefore, the 40 varieties, but none of them have the cross framed.

RAYON II., value 10 rappen. (*Illustration*) These stamps were printed in black, red and yellow on white paper. Again there are 40 varieties, with and without frame for the cross. We have here the full plate. Herr Von Girsewald claims those with the frame are only from trial sheets. I am not prepared to express an opinion on this point, but our photograph is taken from a fine used pair with the frame and shows also an interesting counterfeit on which the frame has been drawn with a pen. Again the arabesques of the background must be used to determine the genuineness of a stamp. It may be of interest to say that on the Rayon I and II. stamps the post horn is of the same design as on the Orts Post stamps.

In Rayon III. (*Illustration*). We have three prominent varieties, small figures with value in centimes and small and large figures with value in rappen. We show you the three plates. The centimes stamps were to accommodate the cantons speaking French and the rappen stamps for those speaking German. The two varieties with small figures were issued simultaneously. They were made from the second and third rows of the Orts Post plate (Herr Girsewald says the 4th and 5th rows, by the way). There are ten varieties of each and the cross is always framed. Originals and counterfeits may be told by comparison of the arabesques. On the originals also the Roman III after "Rayon" is upright, while on the counterfeits it slants to the right. All the counterfeits I have seen have also the word "Rayon" in too large letters.

The type with large figures was issued to replace the two with small figures, it having been found unnecessary to have stamps with the value expressed in two currencies and the figures being thought too small. The fourth and fifth rows of the Orts Post plate were adapted to provide the new issue.

We have therefore ten types, with the cross framed as before.

Of course the test of genuineness is to be found in the arabesques. Herr Girsewald says he has never seen any counterfeits of the large type. My experience has been quite the contrary. I have seen many counterfeits of the large type and few of the small.

Franco P. P. P. PD. P P.



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R<sup>te</sup>

A great many cancellations were used on the Rayon stamps. We show you a few of them.

In conclusion I wish to express my thanks to a number of our members who have assisted with this entertainment, by loan of stamps, etc. Most of the fine unused stamps from which our photographs have been taken are from the superb collection of Mr. H. J. Duveen, who kindly placed them at our disposal. We are indebted to Mr. C. H. Mekeel for the use of cuts from his hand-book. And I feel we are particularly indebted to Mr. J. S. Rich, who has devoted much valuable time to preparing the slides as well as exhibiting them to us.

## OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

28, Birdhurst Rise, CROYDON,  
LONDON, 4th, November, 1896.

Before I close this letter I hope to be able to tell you something definite as to the Prospectus of the Exhibition. The General Purposes Committee, which has this matter in hand, met a few days since with the intention of finishing it, even though it landed them for an all-night sitting. They met at 5 P. M., and I am told they sat till nearly midnight. The revised scheme is now in the printers' hands, and I expect to receive it in the course of a week.

Meanwhile, here is a piece of good news. The *Westminster Gazette* says, "The Financial Secretaryship of the General Post Offices, carrying a salary of £1,500 a year, is about to become vacant by the retirement, through continued ill-health, of Mr. Algernon Turnor, C. B., who has held the post since 1880." Mr. Turnor, behind the scenes, has been a serious stumbling-block in matters philatelic. His retirement is, therefore, a very important piece of good news. He was familiarly known as "Wiggy Turnor." Another official whose retirement will be a source of great pleasure is Mr. W. H. Cousins, Secretary to the Inland Revenue, who has been at the bottom of all the trouble about illustrating postage stamps. His tenure of office will be ended, I am thankful to say, at the end of this year. It should be no slight gain to philately to be rid of two such officials in one year of grace.

The *Bazaar* has come out with its illustrations of postage stamps with cancelling lines across all British Colonials. But I am told the authorities contend that, even so, the law is infringed. However, for the present, as matters seem to be at a standstill, perhaps it is better to let sleeping dogs lie, and say no more about it.

Some of your New York contemporaries seem to be able to instruct us as to what is in the air in this part of the world. One says, in quite a matter of fact-we-know-all-about-it-style, that there will be a commemorative stamp issued next year on the occasion of Queen Victoria breaking the "long reign record." Needless to say the statement is a pure fabrication. There have been all sorts of suggestions, it is true, but the stamp idea has not yet shaped itself. Some of us are hoping, not unnaturally, that advantage may be taken of the occasion to bring out a permanent series of new designs more worthy of the Empire. The same nursery correspondent tells his readers that a certain wall show of forgeries is reckoned one of the sights of London. This is too comical altogether.

The Album and Catalogue questions are now constant and fruitful topics of debate. In the last number of the *London Philatelist* Mr. Castle delivers himself as follows: "Over-elaboration, whether of varieties or prices, in a general catalogue, is, in our humble judgment, harmful in its effect, both as regards the present and the future Philatelist. The trend of the situation to-day seems to indicate in the near future three grades of philatelic information. The first is the simple album-catalogue, the second is the general catalogue for the masses, and the third is the scientific and exhaustive handbook of any particular country, for the specialist. The latter, by whomsoever issued, is not, however, food for the million." To all of which most

philatelists will agree. There can be no doubt that we are rapidly forming up into three distinct classes, viz, the boy collector, the general collector, and the advanced philatelist. So let it be. It is a very convenient and acceptable division. The boy collector will keep the packet and sets trade in good spirits, the general collector will answer for a demand for medium stamps, and the specialist will pick up the unconsidered trifles which are considerably left him in the matter of minor varieties. By all means let us settle down to that, instead of wasting our time sneering at each others' little idiosyncracies.

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Tell it not in Gath! The great house of De la Rue has at last tabled a genuine error. The 1s. stamp of Tobago has been unwittingly printed in the color of the six pence value. Not only that, the error passed unnoticed, and the stamps were sent out to the Colony, and put on sale before the error was discovered. Then they were called in, post haste. How many got out into circulation remains to be seen. Those who have had them here are banking them for developments in price. Thus far I have only seen one copy, and that was unused. There is a quiet hunt going on for copies between the dealers. The knowing ones, hoping the information has not leaked out generally, are inquiring for copies in the new colors, but they are not getting much for their pains, for even the dullest have got an idea that there is something more than a new color in the wind.

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Mr. Phillips has at last, in the *Monthly Journal*, given us the full history of the Nova Scotia remainders, and it is to be hoped that we shall now have heard the last of it. Petty malignity, which has been striding about on moral stilts, has had a good innings, and has gulled simpletons right and left. Never before has there been so much bosh written about a speculation. "Panics" and other twaddle have been the stock humbug of the day. A good many sample noodles actually swallowed the bunkum about sets at 2s.6d. each.

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One bad impression, however, will take a great deal of forgetting, and that is Mr. Bartlett's action in keeping back full information concerning the numbers sold. Philatelists were entitled to that information from the first.

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According to Mr. Phillips he was first approached by the Hon. W. S. Fielding, who evidently wanted to sell him a pig in a poke, for he asked him, by cablegram, "For what quantity Nova Scotia stamps of cents issue will you give face value? Our Government guarantee them to be remainders," but refused to say what quantity there was of each value. Then Mr. Phillips heard that the lot had been sold to Bartlett, who also in turn does his best to keep back the information as to the quantities. A mere speculator may please himself as to his methods so long as he keeps within the law, but a public man, of the Hon. W. S. Fielding's position, cannot so safely engage in the diverting occupation of selling pigs in a poke. The transaction is not one that is likely to reflect any great credit on the Government of the Dominion. It is not at all surprising that half starved little republics, and gilt-and-ginger-bread Sovereigns should job their stamps amongst dealers, but it is little short of a public scandal that a great Colony like that of Canada should jockey a few pounds worth of old stamps about, pig in a poke style, among dealers and speculators.

There is a growing feeling that some specialists, or rather so-called specialists are bringing Minor varieties into contempt. Every broken letter in a surcharge, every failure of a machine to make a perfect impression becomes a variety. In the bulking up of English the varieties that are being raked up are simply ludicrous. But it must not be thought that these varieties are being run up by the recognized specialists. On the contrary, I happen to know that they are thoroughly disgusted at the business. No one could regard the silly English ramifications with more disgust than Messrs. Hastings Wright and Creeke. And I may say, for my fellow specialists of Chilian stamps, that the enumeration of varieties of watermark in the *Bazaar* has provoked no end of mirth. Recognised specialists, as a rule, do their best to limit the minor varieties to what may be termed die varieties, including, of course, in that term genuine varieties of surcharge. But the latest discovery in the Chili list is an inverted "A" for "V" in the word "Centavos." Could anything be more childish. Such nonsense brings serious philately into contempt.

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The most crushing exposure of the overdoing of minor varieties was the snuffing out of Mr. A. A. Bartlett's formidable list of minor varieties of die dots galore in Prince Edward Islands stamps, by Mr. Tilleard, Hon. Sec. of the London Philatelic Society, with the evidence of the actual plates, with proofs from them, to back up his exposure.

The danger in the absurdities of "would be specialists" is that they bring discredit upon serious and sane students, and lead to to an unreasonable outcry against Minor varieties of all sorts, which would be equally foolish in another direction.

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The firm of Stanley Gibbons L<sup>t</sup>d., have woke up at last to the fact that Philatelists expect the best from them in the shape of Catalogues and Albums, and will resent anything that falls short of their expectations. Hence their last Catalogue has been a bitter disappointment. *You* have no particular reason to complain, for it has given the Scott Catalogue such a firm footing in this country as it never would, or could, have had, but for this very inferior catalogue turned out by Gibbons. The new Gibbons Catalogue is to be a Catalogue par excellence, bar two mistakes, at least what I regard as mistakes, viz, price and illustrations. I gather that the bulk of the old fearfully indistinct and almost useless illustrations will be used again, and the price, high enough before, is to be increased from 3s. 6d. to 5s. Apart from these serious handicaps, the new Gibbons will be, I verily believe, the finest thing that has ever been attempted in the way of a handy size Catalogue. It is to be in three vols. or parts. Vol. 1. will be devoted to the adhesive stamps of Great Britain and her Colonies, a splendid arrangement from our point of view on this side. Vol. 2. will comprise the adhesive stamps of all countries outside the British Empire. Vol. 3. will deal exclusively with envelopes, postcards and wrappers. Part 1. is half promised for Dec. Part 2. for Jan. Let us say two or three months later so as not to be disappointed. I happen to know that the catalogue is the work of a committee of the best philatelists in this country, and that it is edited by one whose authority is absolutely beyond question.

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A great improvement which is to be introduced into the new Gibbons will be the illustration of surcharges apart from the stamps. It is next to impossible to make a clear and recognisable representation of a surcharge on

the engraving of a stamp. Some years ago when I wanted to show some Transvaal Surcharges very clearly I adopted the separate method, and have had as a consequence a partiality for that method ever since. Why I have not adopted it in the *Philatelic Record* I cannot say. But I shall do so in future.

I should like to call the attention of South American specialists on your side to an important paper on the 5 centavos, 1866, of Bolivia, by Mr. Oldfield, a member of the Council of the London Philatelic Society, which appeared in the October number of the *London Philatelist*. It is a most interesting contribution to the solution of the question of plates of that stamp.

Mr. Oldfield holds that instead of one plate with two retouches as specified in your "Catalogue for Advanced Collectors," there must have been one or more plates in five different states.

He sets out the chief characteristics of the five plates as follows :

Plate A. The lines of the globe are crossed by a series of small vertical lines, and at the extreme right by two or three diagonal lines curved slightly inwards. With the exception of some few stamps, mostly in the two top rows, these vertical lines commence about the centre of the upper part of the globe, extending thence to the right. In the exceptions mentioned, these vertical lines are confined more to the right and lower part of the globe.

The shading on the breast of the eagle is almost entirely composed of diagonal and horizontal lines. There are some few indicating the line of the throat, and one, or perhaps two, running parallel with the vertical lines of the wings, but the comparative absence of vertical lines of shading is one of the features of this plate.

Plate B. The vertical lines on the globe have almost disappeared. The diagonal lines at the right have been strengthened, deepened, or newly cut, so that they stand out much more clearly or distinctly than in Plate A. Numerous vertical lines of shading have been inserted on the breast of the eagle.

If you compare the stamps of Plate A with those of Plate B, it is easy to detect the differences in the lines of shading, indicating the eye, the mouth, and the lines of the throat, or some one or more of them.

Plate C. The disappearance of the diagonal lines from the globe, as well as of the vertical ones, except in the case of some few stamps, notably Nos. 1, 2, 6, 9, 12, 22, 54, 64 and 66. There is, however, in many of the stamps a thickness or dark indistinctness in this part. New short horizontal lines have been added to the right of the globes (as stated in the Catalogue for Advanced Collectors), or in some cases the existing lines have been merely deepened and broadened.

Speaking generally, the breast of the eagle in this plate has a much more open and white appearance than in Plate B, the lines of shading there being decidedly less numerous. There is an error in this sheet, the stamp No. 66 in the bottom row being lettered "Bolivia" instead of "Bolivia."

Plate D. That the thickness to the right of the globe, as described in Plate C, is much more strongly marked, approaching almost to a dark shadow in this spot. The lines of the background are much closer together, and in places the background appears to be almost solid (as it does in the stamps of Sicily), unless examined through a magnifying glass.

Generally speaking, the stamp has a much rougher and coarser appearance than in the earlier plates. The word "Bolivia" in stamp No. 66 in the bottom row is correctly spelt.

Plate E. Generally speaking, I can only say that the workmanship is

decidedly rougher and coarser than in Plate D. The background in most cases is composed, apparently, only of confused lines in blocks, instead of consisting of crossed vertical lines running continuously across the stamp from top to bottom, or side to side. The plate has the appearance of being upon its last legs, and quite fit to give place to a new issue, which, I should imagine, was then about to appear. In stamp No. 66 the lettering much more nearly approaches "Bouvia" than "Bolivia."

Our Societies are all now in full swing. And I must confess the provincial societies are taking the shine out of the premier society in the matter of activity. Both the Manchester and Birmingham Societies have got out Programmes for the whole winter session, whilst the premier society did not even make a start with its hand to mouth from week to week arrangement till the end of October. Truly the premier Society will have to look to its laurels if it is to maintain its proud position, for it is fast being robbed of them one by one. The Gibbons Handbooks altogether take the shine out of the African work of the Society with its scandalous rag-and-bone shop style of printing in battered letters and wrong founts. And the country societies are not too overweighted with dukes and noble lords to indulge in the pleasant pastime of rooking each other in exchange sheets. Its meetings are not well attended and they never will be while they are of the hum-drum character.

Still we have the material. But what is the use of the material if you don't know how to make it up, as the jobbing tailor said to the party who thought of making a coat for himself out of some cloth he had stolen.

There have been some fine old games going on behind the scenes of late in our London trade circles. I dare not venture on even a par yet, though I am tickled enough to do so. Solicitors are engaged in reading and studying some of the phases, and possibly the fat may get into the fire. If it does you may take my word for it that there will be a jolly old blaze up. Some of them mean business when they can get a fair chance to have a regular fair and square set to. They are waiting like terriers at a rat hole. So great will be the commotion if the game comes off that I am certain nothing short of a commemorative stamp will suffice to represent the jubilation. Money will be no object when the festivities commence in real earnest.

The publication of a Directory of Dealers is not all beer and skittles, as one publisher has probably learned to his cost of late. The name of a well known member of the London Philatelic Society was, no doubt unwittingly, included as a dealer. As soon as the Member referred to saw it he there and then instructed his solicitor to proceed to stop the publication of his name in such a list. The solicitor said there was not the slightest doubt that he could insist upon all the copies being called in and destroyed and blank, blank, blank, besides. Bad for the publisher. After that I for one shall take care not to indulge in the diverting pastime of publishing lists of dealers lest I might include an angel unawares.

I have not yet heard the result of the proceedings.

LONDON, 18th November, 1896.

Here is a good story from the *Westminster Gazette* :

The writers of love-letters will do well when inditing or preserving these missives to remember the moral of an incident which happened a week or two ago. A youthful philatelist received permission from his father to sell or exchange a number of old postage stamps he had discovered in a lumber

room. The frugal minded papa impressed upon the son the fact that if he left the stamps on the envelopes he would get a better price for them. The boy adhered so strictly to this rule that he gave the letters he found in some of the old envelopes into the bargain. Two days afterwards a lady informed the papa that the whole town was reading, with intense interest, some letters he had written before his marriage to his present wife. Notwithstanding the frantic efforts made by the composer of the love letters, they were not returned, and there is no knowing but that they may turn up one of these days in a neat "Guide to the Writing of Love Letters."

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Removals to London continue to be the order of the day among stamp dealers. The old firm of Alfred Smith & Co. are now settled into Essex Street, which opens into the Strand. It was this firm which started the Stamp Collectors' Magazine, which to this day is one of the most prized reference books in our philatelic libraries. Vol. 1 was published in 1863. The firm was then known as "Stafford Smith & Smith." With the publication of Vol. 4, in 1866, the style of the firm was changed to its present form of "Alfred Smith & Co." Mr. Stafford Smith set up for himself in Brighton, where he still carries on a quiet business. The firm which has moved to London publishes the *Monthly Circular*. Its business, I fancy, lies mostly in the Sets and Packets line.

Another removal to London is that of Mr. H. L'Estrange Ewen, who describes himself as "Expert, Specialist and dealer in British Stamps." He has taken up his business abode at Norwood, a suburb of London close to the Crystal Palace. With the view of advertising his change of address, Mr. Ewen is getting out a new album for British Stamps, the first thousand copies of which he intends to give away to boom his new place of business.

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The *English Specialists' Journal*, which Mr. Ewen edits and publishes, is announced to resume business on December 7th, which number will commence the second volume. Evidently Mr. Ewen means to have a good holiday again, for the second volume is to be completed with the July, 1897, number, presumably to start the third volume in December again.

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Mr. Ewen also announces a new edition of his Catalogue of British Stamps. In his preface to the new edition he writes as follows:—

Former editions, apart from their incompleteness, have been written for advanced Specialists, the method of arrangement, and the inclusion of minor varieties having tended to confuse and dishearten the beginner. The present edition, it is hoped, will be found useful by both. Whereas the collector of thirty years ago ignored varieties of paper, watermarks, and perforations, we, at the present day, not only collect these, but many collectors also devote much time and trouble to the study of every minor variety, whatever its nature. As opinions differ as to the collectability of many such varieties, we have in the present edition separated them from the regular or "standard" issues.

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There has been a grand scramble for the Tobago 1s. error of color. At first one dealer who got a few sold them at double face, but the information soon leaked out that they were an error of color, and then there was a speculation as to the prices at which they should be sold. Hoarding began, pending news as to the quantity issued. For the few that were sold high prices were the rule, ranging from 20s. to £15. This latter price was got by

a well known Collector who does not go in for West Indies The price was a roaster, but I am told that the Collector promptly handed the money over to a charity, as the stamp came in the ordinary way on the office letters, and a few pounds is no object to him. Now it is said that although all but a thousand were saved by the cable the remainders have been bagged by a Speculator, who has supplied the dealers with quantities. I hear of one city dealer having 400, another 200, and so on. As to the price at which the stamp will settle down at I am of the opinion that it will range at about 20s. That is about the price at which it is being sold in the trade just now, and I question very much whether it will be worth more for a very long time. Of course it is not only a genuine error, but a somewhat remarkable one.

The Prospectus for the great Philatelic Exhibition is almost ready for issue, but I am afraid it will not be out in time for me to say anything about it in this letter. It will probably be published in full in the next numbers of our leading philatelic periodicals.

A correspondent tells the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* of a rumor that the Crystal Palace intends to get up a Stamp Exhibition on its own account. I doubt it very much, and even if it were true as to the intention I am inclined to think that a very little experience in the preliminary arrangements would convince the Crystal Palace authorities that the game is not worth the candle under the circumstances. Any stamp exhibition without the imprimatur of the leading philatelists would be a farce.

We are now well into Auction season and so far as I can learn there is no very decided set in any direction. West Indians are not going at such good prices as last season, on the whole.

## THE NEW COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS OF BELGIUM.

BY JULES BOUVÉZ.



The competition opened for designs for a special issue of postage stamps on the occasion of the universal exhibition in Brussels which is to take place in 1897, and which we have already spoken of in the March number of the present volume of the journal, has produced quite a number of drawings that have been rewarded by the government.

The premium of 1000 francs for the best design was, as is well known, awarded to Mr. Alfred van Neste de Berchem, a young artist of Bruges, who

was, at the time of the competition, doing his term of service in the Belgian army.

The design has been adopted for the first of the two commemorative stamps issued by the Belgian Administration in consequence of the decrees which we reproduce below :

"Leopold II, King of the Belgians, to all present and to come, greeting.

"Considering Art. 40 of the law of May 30th, 1879, authorizing the government to issue postage stamps, to assign to them a period of validity, etc. ;

"On the proposition of our Minister of Railways, Posts and Telegraphs, we have ordered and do order :

"Art. 1° Special postage stamps will be issued on the occasion of the universal exhibition which is to take place in Brussels in 1897. They will be used concurrently with the ordinary postage stamps.

"Art. 2° Our Minister of Railways, Posts and Telegraphs will determine the details, values and conditions of sale, as well as the period of validity of these stamps, and he will take all other measures for the execution of the present decree.

"Given at Laeken, October 2nd, 1896.

(signed) "LEOPOLD.

"By the King :

"The Minister of Railways, Posts and Telegraphs,

(signed) "J. VANDENPEEREBOOM.

"Considering the Royal Decree of October 2nd, 1896, relating to the issue of special postage stamps on the occasion of the universal exhibition in Brussels in 1897 ;

"The Minister of Railways, Posts and Telegraphs orders :

"Art. 1° The above mentioned postage stamps shall bear the inscription : 'Bruxelles 1897 Brussel. Postes Posterijen.'

"They shall be provided with a slip with the words : 'Ne pas livrer le dimanche—Niet bestellen op Zondag,' the purpose and use of which are determined by Art. 1° of our order of May 15th, 1893.

"Art. 2° The values and the colors of these stamps are determined as follows :

"5 centimes, violet ;

"10 centimes, brown.

"Art. 3° These stamps will be sold until December 31st, 1897; they will be used under the same circumstances as the ordinary postage stamps during the term of their validity, which will end on June 30th, 1898.

"Art. 4° The 10 centimes stamps will be issued on the 15th of the present month, and those of 5 centimes on November 15th next.

"The Director General of the Post office is charged with the execution of the present order.

Brussels, October 5th, 1896.

(signed) "J. VANDENPEEREBOOM."

The design of the stamp represents in the foreground St. Michael, the patron saint of Brussels, overcoming the Dragon, and in the background a perspective of the principal monuments of the capital, among which can easily be distinguished : at the left, the city hall and its tower; a little nearer to the center, the column of the Congress house, and to the right the Palace of Justice with its dome.

It must be owned that the engraving of this stamp leaves much to be desired. It is strange that in Belgium the official engravers can not attain

that perfection which is found among our English neighbors and, better still, in New York, where all those beautifully finished stamps of the South American countries are obtained.

The new Brussels stamp is perforated 14 and measures 35x24mm. A slight error will be observed in the printing of the Flemish word "POSTERIJEN;" the engraver, having forgotten the letter *i*, put in a small vertical dash to take its place; the spreading of the ink on certain sheets has changed the *j* into a *u* through the addition of this dash. Philatelists will not fail to distinguish these in the future, and we have thought it worth while to call the attention of those interested to the fact.

Contrary to all previous issues, the new values have been issued, like the poster stamps, in sheets of 25, instead of 300. The first series, divided among the 865 post offices of the kingdom, comprised 100,000 sheets, or 2,500,000 stamps. In accordance with the decision arrived at in 1894 with regard to the first commemorative stamps, those issued on the occasion of the Brussels exhibition will serve in the same way as the ordinary postage stamps, and the post offices will deliver them to the public concurrently with the present stamps, but only when asked for. After December 31st, 1897, some decision will be come to by the postal administration concerning the stamps remaining unsold.

The administration having already remarked that the width of the new stamps is a little more than the diameter of the date stamps, has given instructions for the latter to be applied in such a manner as to overlap the label and to be put on twice. This will not be at all agreeable to collectors of used stamps, for it will cause the copies to be almost obliterated.

On the occasion of this new issue it has been said that with the two values of which we have been speaking Belgium will close her series of commemorative stamps. It is said, indeed, that several governments intend to propose to the next postal congress, which is to be held in Washington in 1897, a plan for putting an end to issues of this kind, which complicate the organization of certain postal departments and the labors of the international post office at Berne. This plan will, moreover, include a scheme for the issue of a universal postage stamp and other measures of a nature interesting to philatelists, to which we will call attention in another article.

The 5 centimes violet stamp of the Brussels Exhibition appeared in Belgium on November 15th, 1896, St. Leopold's day. It was not greeted with much enthusiasm by collectors, although the design of the engraving, which also represents St. Michael, but in a triumphant attitude, is pretty well executed.

Like its elder brother, the 10 centimes stamp, it was issued in sheets of 25 stamps, and the first printing will probably be the only one, for it consisted of 200,000 sheets, or five million stamps.

We give above a cut of this stamp, the size of which is exactly the same as that of the 10 centimes. It is its size particularly (it being greatly in excess of that of the ordinary stamp) that prevents its general use on correspondence. These stamps are used preferably for the prepayment of receipts and commercial papers, as well as for school savings bank purposes, and everything leads us to believe that very few of them will be used to prepay letters for abroad. Observers attribute this to various causes, but the principal one is to be found in the discredit thrown on these stamps and in the misinformation concerning them published by the Belgian press. Thus, several newspapers declared that the stamps of the Brussels Exhibition could not be used for the prepayment of letters going abroad; that France and Germany,

particularly, had refused to recognize them and that any correspondence prepaid by means of these stamps would be taxed as unpaid on reaching its destination.

We will say at once that all this is false, and that neither France nor Germany, any more than any other country in the postal union, can consider these stamps as being invalid. So long as a new postal congress has not come to a formal decision on this subject, modifying the convention signed at Vienna on July 4th, 1891, and decreeing that commemorative stamps can no longer be used for the prepayment of correspondence going abroad, all the postal administrations of the union can continue to issue them.

In order to remove all doubt on this point, it will be interesting to give here an extract from the text of the principal agreement of the Postal Congress of Vienna, in which it is said:

"Art. 11. The prepayment of any package from one country of the union to another country of the union can be made only by means of postage stamps which are valid for the prepayment of private correspondence in the country where the package comes from.

Art. 12. Each administration keeps the whole sum charged for the prepayment of correspondence which it sends to other countries of the union. Consequently, there is no occasion on this account for any exchange of statements between the various administrations of the union."

Although these details suffice to demonstrate the inaccuracy of the statements circulated by the Belgian press with regard to the rejection by foreign postal administrations of the stamps of the Brussels Exhibition, we think it well to note that by the terms of Art. xxxiii of the Regulations for the execution of the Postal Convention, the postal administrations which are in the union should exchange with each other, through the International office established at Berne, five complete collections of their postage stamps and should without delay and in the same way give notice of any alteration made in them.

As, after having made arrangements for the creation of its new commemorative stamps, the Belgian Postal Administration did not fail to comply with the article of the Convention which we have quoted, it may well be said that these stamps are available for the prepayment of correspondence sent abroad.

## THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF FRANCE.

From the *Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste*.

Continued from Page 475.

We give here reduced copies of the Telegram cards and Telegram Letter cards issued in 1885 and 1887, which we had not room to put in the text in No. 191 of the *Collectionneur* (No. 11 of the present volume of this Journal.) These are still in use.

Originally, the system for opening the cards was that indicated above; the inconvenience of the perforation of the corners, which often resulted in damage to the cards, led to the adoption for the letter cards of a style of perforation which did not extend to the outer edges of the card. This method is still in use.

Ce télégramme peut circuler à Paris, dans les limites de l'enclosure jointe.

CE CÔTÉ EST EXCLUSIVEMENT RÉSERVÉ À L'ADRESSE

SERVICE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE

CARTE-TÉLÉGRAMME



M \_\_\_\_\_

LE PORT EST GRATUIT

Le nombre des mots n'est pas limité

PARIS

Pour ouvrir le télégramme, déchirer en suivant le pointillé.

CE CÔTÉ EST EXCLUSIVEMENT RÉSERVÉ À L'ADRESSE

SERVICE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE

TÉLÉGRAMME



M \_\_\_\_\_

PARIS



1887. *Decrease in the rate for envelopes for pneumatic tubes.*

It will be remembered that the decree of January 15, 1885, had fixed at 75 centimes the rate for the pneumatic tube envelope, for a maximum weight of 7 grammes.

No doubt, this price appeared very high, for few persons took advantage of this mode of correspondence.

Therefore, in analogy with what had been done with the pneumatic cards and letter cards, a decree of 1887 reduced the rate on these envelopes to 60 centimes for 7 grammes.

The existing envelopes had the black surcharge "Taxe Réduite 60c" printed on them in two lines, the former value being obliterated by five small horizontal lines.

Envelope.

TUBES PNEUMATIQUES



M

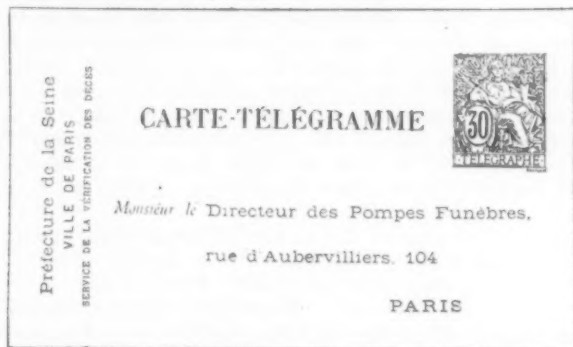
60c on 75c rose, lilac.

It was not until 1889 that the envelope of 60 centimes was issued, identical, with the exception of the value, with the 75 centimes envelopes of 1885.

Envelope.

60c. rose, lilac.

July, 1884. The cholera epidemic which had just broken out with great violence at Toulon and Marseilles threatened to spread through France, if measures of an extreme severity were not taken.



In a great center like Paris the danger seemed especially imminent; for this reason an understanding was arrived at by the various administrations interested: Prefecture of the Seine, Prefecture of Police, Postal Administration, etc., etc., with the object of carrying out as quickly as possible the measures of isolation or disinfection required by the conditions. Beginning July 12th, the Manager of the Paris telegraphs gave to his staff instructions relating to the free circulation of telegrams to give notice to the funeral administration of deaths resulting from epidemic or contagious diseases. Here is the circular.

"BUREAU OF TELEGRAPHS OF PARIS.

PARIS, July 12th, 1894.

CIRCULAR.

"With a view to giving, to the doctors of the Civil Service, facilities for requesting the Funeral Administration to proceed at once to put into coffins persons having died from any epidemic or contagious disease, the Prefecture

of the Seine will have telegrams made for the use of the Civil Service doctors in districts provided with pneumatic tubes.

"In districts not connected with the pneumatic system, these same doctors will make use of the ordinary telegraph for the correspondence which they have to transmit, so that there may be no delay in putting into coffins those persons whose death shall have occurred from any contagious disease.

"The telegram cards and the electric telegrams in question, which will be in conformity with the annexed samples, will be accepted in the Paris offices without previous payment of the rates and without deposit of guarantee. The charges relating to these dispatches will be entered in the account of the Prefecture of the Seine.

"The accounting of these dispatches will be kept conformably to article 199 and the following ones of Instruction T. At the end of each month the receivers will annex to each statement on Form 303 ter, a detailed statement on Form 441 of the cards and telegrams deposited at their office.

"Receivers, who have not Register No. A2 or Forms 303 ter and 441 should immediately ask for them.

"CAEL,

"Engineer & Director."

We have before us several types of these cards made for the Civil Service doctors.

The first which we reproduce above, is very similar to the current pneumatic card. The obverse bears the inscriptions printed in black on buff: "CARTE TÉLÉGRAMME. *Monsieur le Directeur des Pompes funèbres, rue d'Aubervilliers, 104, PARIS,*" and at the left, in three vertical lines reading upwards: "Prefecture de la Seine. VILLE DE PARIS. SERVICE DE LA VERIFICATION DES DECES;" to the left a perforated coupon or stub having only on the back the inscriptions: "*M le Dr .....médecin de l'état-civil du....arrondissement de Paris. No....Réquisition adressée à l'Administration des Pompes funèbres pour la mise en bière d'urgence de M. ....rue....no ....décédé le....188..., à ....heure... du .... Paris, le ....188..., à.... heure du .....*"

Along the dotted line of the stub: "VERIFICATION DES DECES," and on the reverse of the card:

N°....."

"Le soussigné, Medecin de l'Etat-Civil, du....Arrondissement de Paris, délégué à cet effet par le Maire, officier de l'Etat-Civil, requiert l'Administration des Pompes funèbres d'effectuer la mise en bière d'urgence de M...décédé à Paris rue....No....au....étage, le... 188...,à....heure du....."

"(Signature)"

And below, to the left, in four lines:

"Dimensions du cors: Longueur....Largeur....Nature du cercueil  
..."

To this card was attached a bulletin in white paper destined to receive report of the Civil Service doctor.

Card.

30 centimes. black, buff

We know of a card identically the same as that we have just described, but it has not the black stamp of 30 centimes, and the address is altered as follows:

Monsieur le Directeur des Pompes Funèbres, avenue du Maine, 141."

Card.

(no value) black, buff.

We will add that other service cards printed in black on dark gray paper

were addressed to Monsieur le Prefet de la Seine, Service municipal de Desinfection gratuite, etc., etc., others printed in black on white or buff paper, were intended for the municipal crematory service.

Thanks to these energetic measures, the cholera epidemic in Paris was not of a very grave character. The number of cases was very small and the disease was quickly stamped out. A few collectors have preserved in their albums the cards issued at the time and which were difficult to procure. We have been assured that they were not much used; some persons go so far as to say that, although they were issued, these cards were never in use.

### THE ENVELOPE ISSUES OF 1894-1895.

BY JOSEPH RECHERT, HOBOKEN, N. J.

In the following an attempt will be made to tabulate the 1894-95 issues.

The distinguishing features between the Purcell (Holyoke) and the Plimpton (Hartford) manufactures have been pretty well discussed, still I trust it will be interesting for some of your readers to have the most peculiar points reiterated.

In the Holyoke make sizes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14 have the left hand flap overlapping the right side. Sizes 7, 8, 9 have the side flaps over the under flap. The manila and amber manila envelopes and wrappers are of wove paper in the Holyoke make.

The Hartford manufacture, on the contrary, has in sizes 1 to 14 the right over the left flap, and in sizes 7, 8, 9 the under flap over the side flaps.

The manila and amber manila envelopes and wrappers are on laid paper with the exception of 1 cent manila sizes Nos. 3 and 6, which appear on both laid and wove paper.

The dies are the same in both issues with the exception of the 5 cents, which in the Holyoke is a new one, where the collar touches the beard and the hair on the forehead is protruding.

The watermark, though of the same design, shows many varieties; suffice it to say that the Holyoke watermark has a rather irregular shape, and the Hartford a more symmetrical one.

I have listed the 1 cent Hartford in three shades as these are entirely distinct.

Notice should be taken, that while the two sizes 4 and 14, emanating from the Columbian Issue have been manufactured by the Hartford firm, yet No. 14 white paper has also been made by the Holyoke concern.

Attention is drawn to the errors in watermarks.

The one of 1890 or wmk. J. of the Natl. Phil. Soc. book appearing with the 2 cents Hartford sizes 4 and 14.

The small so-called service monogram P. O. D. or wmk. M. of the N. P. S. list in both the 1 and 2 cents Hartford on No. 3 manila wove paper.

Another variety is to be noted: the 1 cent Hartford with a projection or Spur below the bust in size 5 white paper.

It has also been stated that the new 5 cents die came with the 1890 wmk. (J), but so far I cannot substantiate the fact.

Besides I have two varieties of the 2 cents white on wove paper, showing no watermark. Undoubtedly some of the missing varieties in the following list will turn up in the course of time.

## CORRECTED TABLES.

1894-95 ISSUES.

1 Cent.

No.	HOLYOKE.			HARTFORD.		
	DK. BLUE.	LT. BLUE.		BLUE.	DK. BLUE.	LT. BLUE.
2 White.	1	1		1	—	1
Amber.	—	1		—	—	—
3 White.	1	—		1	1	1
Amber.	1	1		—	—	—
Manila, W.	—	1	L. & W.	1	—	—
Amber Man. W.	—	1	L.	1	—	—
5 White.	1	1		1	—	1
Amber.	1	1		1	—	1
6 Manila, W.	1	1	W.	1	—	—
7 Manila.	—	—	L.	1	—	1
11 White, W.	—	1		1	—	1
12 Wrapper, W.	1	1	L.	1	1	1

1894.

2 Cents.

No.	HOLYOKE.	HARTFORD.	No.	HOLYOKE.	HARTFORD.
1 White.	2	2	10 White.	2	2
2 White.	2	2	11 White.	2	2
Amber.	2	2		<i>Sides.</i>	<i>Lower.</i>
Oriental Buff.	2	2	7 White.	2	2
Blue.	—	2	Amber.	—	2
Manila, W.	2	L. 2	Oriental Buff.	2	2
Amber, Man., W.	—	L. 2	Blue.	—	2
3 White.	2	2	8 White.	2	2
Amber.	2	2	Amber.	2	2
Oriental Buff.	2	2	9 White.	—	2
Blue.	—	2	Amber.	—	2
Manila, W.	—	L. 2	12 Wrapper.		
Amber, Man., W.	2	L. 2	Dark Green, W.	2	—
4 White.	—	2	Lt. Green, W.	2	—
Amber.	—	2	Dark Green, L.	—	2
5 White.	2	2	Lt. Green, L.	—	2
Amber.	2	2			
Oriental Buff.	2	2			
Blue.	2	2			
Manila, W.	2	L. 2			
Amber, Man., W.	2	L. 2			
13 White.	2	2			
Amber.	2	2			
Buff.	2	2			
Blue.	2	2			
14 White.	2	2			
Amber.	—	2			

1894

4 Cents.

No.	HOLYOKE.		HARTFORD.
	<i>Sides.</i>		<i>Lower.</i>
7 White Scarlet.	4	Red.	4
Amber "	—	"	4
8 White "	4	"	—
Amber "	4	"	4
9 White "	—	"	4
Amber "	—	"	4

## 5 Cents.

No.		No.	
3 White new die	5	3 White old die.	5
Amber " "	5	Amber " "	5
5 White " "	5	5 White " "	5
Amber " "	5	Amber " "	5
		White " " (Lt. Blue.)	5

## ERRORS AND ODDITIES.

*Watermarks.**Hartford.*

- 1 Cent No. 3 Manila wove paper, Service Wmk. M.  
 2 Cents No. 3 " " " " M.  
 2 Cents No. 4 White paper, 1890 Watermark J.  
 2 Cents No. 4 Amber " " " " J.  
 2 Cents No. 14 White paper, 1890 Watermark J.  
 2 Cents No. 14 Amber " " " " J.

*Wove Paper.**Holyoke.*

- 2 Cents No. 2 White paper, unwatermarked.  
 5 Cents New die No. 5 Amber paper.

*Hartford.*

- 2 Cents No. 11 White paper, unwatermarked.

*Die Varieties.**Hartford.*

- 1 Cent No. 5 White paper, "Spur."  
 4 Cent No. 8 Amber paper, Claret die.

W. means wove paper.

L. means laid paper.

## NOTES.

*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* states that the Madagascar stamps chronicled last month have not been issued, in fact, have not been ordered so far.

The same paper says this Colony is likely to issue special Unpaid Letter stamps.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

We have seen a pair of the 10 centavos of Costa Rica imperforate between.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

The *Monthly Journal* mentions a pair of the Brit. Guiana 1c on 1 dollar of 1890, each stamp of which shows two impressions of the red surcharge, the one partly covering the other, but both quite plain and distinct.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

The *Philatelic Record* mentions the provisional British East Africa 2½a in red on the 1a 6p India, without a fractional dividing line. The same variety exists also in the Zanzibar provisional of the same value.

We illustrate below the Registration stamps of Antioquia, chronicled last month.



☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

*Le Courrier de Timbres-Poste* announces that the Dutch Indies will shortly have an issue of Postal Packet stamps of 1, 5 and 10 florins and also of a 2c envelope for visiting cards.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

From *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* we learn that Kewkiang has furnished some new material for the blacklist of the S. S. S. S. in surcharging the current 20, 15 and 6c stamps respectively  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1 and 2 cent. The first two are surcharged in black and the last one in blue.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* states that Canada will shortly issue a new series of adhesives of the same type as the current 20 and 50c.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Messrs. Williams & Co. have shown us part of a sheet of 1c Unpaid Letter stamps of Peru, surcharged with triangle 4, on which one stamp has a double surcharge, one over the other, and a vertical pair having three surcharges, the third surcharge being between the two first ones.

The same correspondents have also shown us a 1c green with head of General of Bermudez, having the surcharge inverted, and a 1c orange of 1881 "Chilian Arms," and a 5c 1882 "Chilian Arms and Horse-shoe," surcharged in black "VCA" in oval.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* mentions the provisional Fernando Po 5c on 10c with surcharge inverted.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Mr. W. C. Eaton calls our attention to the fact that there are two varieties of the figure 5 with curved serif of the 5c on 6c Liberia; the normal type has a wide serif, while on the variety the serif is narrow, and the body of the 5 a trifle taller. The variety is repeated on the sheet in the eighth stamp of the second, third and fourth horizontal rows.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* chronicles the current  $2\frac{1}{2}$ c brown of Antioquia imperforate horizontally.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* chronicles a provisional 1c Hankow stamp, consisting of the 10 and 30c stamps surcharged "One Cent" in black.

The same contemporary chronicles a new series of adhesives in design similar to preceding issue, but smaller, measuring 22x26mm. instead of 24x29mm. The values and colors are as follows:

2c green, 5c violet, 10c dull blue, 20c brick red, 30c violet.

All these will, of course, come under the ban of the S. S. S. S., as there is no doubt about their speculative nature.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

From the *Monthly Journal* we learn that an error has been discovered in the overprint upon the Army Official stamps of Great Britain, one stamp in each sheet of the ½p and 1p showing the second word spelt "OFFICIAL." The last letter appears to be a distinct "I," not a broken "L," and it always occurs in the same position on the sheet.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

The publishers of the *Monthly Journal* state that in a lot of stamps recently obtained from the correspondence of a business house in Cordoba they found a specimen of the "IN PS" blue of Buenos Ayres, printed on both sides. The impression on the face is in dark blue, and is well centered; that on the back shows about three fourths of one stamp and one-fourth of another, in a paler shade, but quite sharp and well defined. They suppose that the paler impression was defective in some part of the sheet, and that the paper was in consequence turned over and put a second time through the press.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Subscribers of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY will receive with this number the title page and index for 1896.

## CHRONICLE.

**BELGIUM.**—Mr. J. K. Schuh has sent us the Brussels Exhibition stamp of 5 centimes, which we illustrate below.

*Adhesive stamp.*

Brussels Exhibition.



Perforated 14x14½.  
5c violet

**BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.**—We have seen the £1 revenue, surcharged 1sh and used postally.

The *Monthly Journal* chronicles a 6p revenue, surcharged 2sh also used postally.

Adhesive stamps.  
Provisional issue.



Perforated 14.

1s on £1 dark blue and red, black surcharge

2s on 6p lilac and red, black surcharge

**BRITISH EAST AFRICA.**—*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* chronicles the  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna envelope and the  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 1 anna wrappers of India, surcharged with the name of this territory in black.

*The Philatelic Record* chronicles two new varieties in post cards. 1 anna on  $1\frac{1}{2}$  anna, India, surcharged with ordinary surcharge, and another of the same value, surcharged in blue in larger type.

They also chronicle two fresh varieties in envelopes, namely:  $2\frac{1}{2}$  anna, surcharged on India 4 anna 6 pies, showing two varieties of the surcharge, one being in three lines in blue and close together, and the other in black, much wider apart.

A 2 annas Registration Envelope with stamp of same type as current adhesive has also been used.

*Envelopes.*

$\frac{1}{2}$ a green, black surcharge

2a6p on 4a6p orange, black surcharge

2a6p on 4a6p orange, blue

*Registration Envelope.*



White wove paper, linen lined.

2a chocolate

*Wrappers.* $\frac{1}{2}$ a green, black surcharge

1a red brown black surcharge

*Postal Cards.*1a on  $\frac{1}{2}$ a blue, black surcharge, buff1a on  $1\frac{1}{2}$  blue, blue

**BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.**—The *London Philatelist* chronicles the current 1sh Cape of Good Hope, as having been surcharged "British South Africa Company."

*Adhesive stamp.*

Provisional Issue.

Watermarked Anchor.

Perforated 14.

1sh yellow buff, black surcharge

**CEYLON.**—Mr. E. G. Rusbridge has sent us a new 2 cent reply card of the same design as the current 2 cent card. (Stamp with Queen's head).

*Postal card.*

2 x 2c yellow brown, white

**COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.**—The  $\frac{1}{2}$ c of the city of Bogota has been re-engraved, the principal difference being in the letters of the inscription, which are larger than in the preceding one.

*Adhesive stamp.*

Perforated 12.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ c black

**Panama.**—Mr. C. Witt has shown us the 50c of same type as the current series.

*Adhesive stamp.*Perforated  $11\frac{1}{2}$ .

50c bistre brown

**CURACAO.**—According to the *Nederlandsch Tijdschrift voor Postzegelkunde*, the 20c Unpaid Letter stamp of the current type has been issued.

*Unpaid Letter stamp.*Perforated  $12\frac{1}{2}$ .

20c green and black

**CYPRUS.**—We have received the new  $\frac{1}{2}$  piastre, which completes the current series.

*Adhesive stamp.*

Watermarked Crown and C.A.

Perforated 14.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ pi green and red

**FERNANDO PO.**—The *Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* chronicles the 10c de p Timbre movil with surcharge "Habilitado Para Correos" in blue

*Adhesive stamp.*

Provisional issue.

Imperforate.

10c deep carmine, blue surcharge

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**FRANCE.**—**French Offices in Zanzibar.**—We have received the following adhesives, which complete the current series :

*Adhesive stamps.*

Perforated 14x13½.

1½a on 15c blue, red surcharge

2a on 20c red on *green*, black surcharge

3a on 30c yellow brown " "

4a on 40c red on *straw* " "

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**HAYTI.**—Mr. Gremmel has shown us the 5 centimes of the re-engraved type.

*Adhesive stamp.*

Perforated 13½.

5c slate green

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**INDIA**—**Travancore.**—Dr. Scherer has shown us the 3 and 4 chuckrams envelopes on white laid paper ; also a wrapper of ½ chuckram ; this last one has the stamp of the same type as adhesives. Both envelopes have the inscription "Travancore Gov't" embossed on the left flap.

*Envelopes.*

White laid paper.

Size: 137 x 79mm.

3ch violet

Creamy white laid paper.

Size: 120 x 94mm.

4ch green

*Wrapper.*

Manila paper.

Size: 128 x 305mm.

½ch green

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**INDO CHINA.**—*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* states that this colony has issued a 5 franc adhesive stamp of the same type as the remainder of the current series.

*Adhesive stamp.*

Perforated 14x13½.

5 fr violet, name in blue

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**LABUAN.**—From the *London Philatelist* we gather that the 25, 50c and 1.00 stamps of the North Borneo State have been printed in new colors, and surcharged "Labuan" in black.

*Adhesive stamps.*

Perforated.

25c green, black surcharge

50c red brown, black surcharge  
1.00 blue, black surcharge

**MEXICO.**—Mr. S Chapman sends us the 2c postal union card of the preceding issue, which has been surcharged at the sides "Para los Estados Unidos Y Canada," in yellow green; our correspondent states that this card should never have read "Union Postal Universal," as only the 3c rate is in force. The present surcharge is only for using up the present stock, and when the next supply of cards is printed they will probably read "Servicio Exterior."

*Postal card.*

2c rose and blue green, yellow green surcharge, buff

**NETHERLANDS.**—We read in the *Nederlandsch Tijdschrift voor Postzegelkunde* that the 1, 1½, 12½, 15, 20 and 25c Unpaid Letter Stamps are now issued in full sheets of type I.

*Unpaid letter stamps.*



Perforated 12½.

1c	ultramarine and black,	type I.
1½c	ultramarine	" type I.
12½c	ultramarine	" type I.
15c	ultramarine	" type I.
20c	ultramarine	" type I.
25c	ultramarine	" type I.

**ORANGE FREE STATE.**—The provisional ½ penny stamp, chronicled by us last month has been replaced by another provisional, as per illustration. They are issued in sheets of 240 stamps, the surcharge being set up in two horizontal panes of 60 stamps each. There are a number of varieties, consisting in the relative position of the letters of the first line of the surcharge towards those of the second line. We only have been able to find two errors, viz: first N of PENNY inverted; this is the first stamp of the fourth horizontal row in the left pane; and, PENNY without period; this is the last stamp in the bottom row, right pane.

*Adhesive stamp.*

Provisional issue.



Perforated 14.

½p on 3p blue, black surcharge.

**QUEENSLAND.**—Mr. Gremmel has shown us the new 1 penny stamp, similar in design to the preceding one, but with large numerals of value in lower corners.

*Adhesive stamp.*



Watermarked Q and Crown.

Perforated 13.

1p orange

**ST. HELENA.**—We have received new stamps of 1, 2, 2½, 5 and 10 penny of the same design as the 1½p; also 1p postal cards, single and reply, the stamp on which shows a view of the Island.

*Adhesive stamps.*



Watermarked Crown and CA.

Perforated 14.

1p carmine

2p yellow

2½p blue

5p violet

10p brown

*Postal cards.*

1p carmine, buff

1x1p carmine, buff

**SALVADOR.**—The annual provisional has made its appearance in the shape of the current 24 centavos, surcharged "Quince Centavos."

We have also received this provisional and both the current series adhesives, surcharged "De Oficio Correos del Salvador."

*Adhesive stamp.*

Provisional issue.



Perforated.

15c on 24c purple, black surcharge.

Official stamps.  
Perforated.

Surcharged



in black.

1c blue  
2c dark brown  
3c deep green  
5c olive brown  
10c yellow  
12c Prussian blue  
15c lilac  
20c magenta  
24c vermilion  
30c orange  
50c dark brown olive  
1p rose

1c emerald green  
2c lake  
3c yellow brown  
5c blue  
10c brown  
12c slate  
15c blue green  
15c on 24c purple  
20c carmine rose  
24c purple  
30c dark yellow green  
50c orange  
100c dark blue.

**SIERRA LEONE.**—The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* states that the 2s, 5s and £1 of the new type have been issued.  
*Adhesive stamps.*



Watermarked Crown and CA.  
Perforated 14.

2s green and ultramarine  
5s green and carmine  
£1 brown, red

**SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.**—The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* chronicles a 6 penny stamp of the new series.  
*Adhesive stamp.*



Perforated 12½.  
6p dull lilac green

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA.**—The Australian Stamp Company informs us that the current 5 and 6 penny adhesives are now perforated 13.

The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* states that the current 1 penny post card has been surcharged in black, O. S.

*Adhesive stamps.*



Watermarked Crown and S.A., letters close together.

Perforated 13.

5p brown lilac

6p blue

*Official Postal card.*

1p brown, buff, black surcharge

**TASMANIA.**—We learn from the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* that the 4 penny stamp is now issued on paper watermarked TAS, letters close together.

*Adhesive stamp.*



Watermarked

**TAS**

Perforated.

4p ochre

**ZANZIBAR.**—The *Weekly Stamp News* reports the current 4½ and 7½ annas of the British East Africa Protectorate as having been surcharged 'Zanzibar.'

The *Philatelic Record* states that the current 1 rupee of India has received the same surcharge.

*Adhesive stamps.*



Provisional Issue.

Perforated.

4½a orange, black surcharge

7½a lilac " "



Watermarked Star.

11 carmine and green, black surcharge

### AUCTION SALES.

Our first sale for the season 1896-97 will be held in the second week of January, and will contain a fine collection of stamps, to which has been added a splendid lot of rarities of the United States, British North America, etc. Among the stamps offered at this sale will be the following:

St. Louis: 1st plate; 5c, dies 1, 2 and 3; 10c, dies 2 and 3; 2d plate: 20c, die 2, cut close; 5c, die 3, cut close; 10c, dies 1, 2 and 3, two unused. New Brunswick: 1 shilling (2); Newfoundland, 6½p, 1 shilling (unused and used); Nova Scotia, 1 shilling (3); and a number of split B. N. A. provisionals.

Providence, complete sheet; State Dept., \$5, \$10 and \$20; Brazil, 1844, 600r, very fine; British Guiana, 1850, 1c magenta and 4c blue; Canada, 7½p green, full o.g.; Dominican Republic, 1862, 1r green; Spain, 1852, 2r; Switzerland, Geneva, 10c; Zurich, 4r; Tuscany, 2 soldi.

Our second sale will be held some time in February, and will include one of the finest collections of United States stamps in the country, and will present a great number of stamps which have never before appeared at public auction. Among the most worthy of mention we may note the following:

New York, all varieties, used and unused, with many different varieties of signature, including the rare autograph "R. H. M." (R. H. Morris); Original New Haven, cut square, and signed reprints, both in red and blue; Entire sheet of Providence;

St. Louis, 5c on first paper;

10c on first paper, die C, unused;

10c dies A & B, on the third or pelure paper (These stamps on the third variety of paper are among the greatest rarities of the United States issue).

The line of Carriers is magnificent, including the following:

New York, 3c buff, unused;

2c red, unused, o.g.;

Baltimore, reconstructed plate of Black Horseman; 1c red, short rays and "sent," unused;

P. O. Dispatch, green, red on white and blue on white, laid paper;

Boston, 2c black, unused ;

Philadelphia, type 16, many varieties ;

Among the regular issues of the United States stamps the following are worthy of special notice :

1847, 5c block of 4, unused, o.g. ;

1851, 1c, about 40 varieties of shifted die, including blocks in magnificent condition with original gum ;

1857, 5c red brown, unused pair with original gum ;

1861, first engraving, 12c ;

“ 3c pink and 5c yellow, unused, o.g. ;

1866, 3c scarlet, unused, o.g. ;

1868, grilled all over, 30c ;

1869, inverted medallion : 15c, 24c, 30c ;

“ originals without grill : 1, 3, 15, 24, 30, 90c ;

1870, 12 and 24c, with grill ;

1875, complete sets of re-issues and complete sets on violet laid and brown chemical paper ;

Departments, complete, unused, o.g. ;

Periodicals, complete, in all prints ;

Envelopes, cut square ;

1853, 3c, octagon ends ;

1857, 10c on white, unused ;

1863, 2c on orange, unused ;

1874, 3c, die C, on fawn, used ;

“ 3c, die C, on blue, used, entire ;

“ 2c vermilion, die A, on manila, used ;

War Department, all issues, complete ;

Revenue stamps : Imperf., 3c Playing Cards, unsevered pair, and fine copies of \$1.30, \$1.90 and \$20 Probate of Will ;

“ Second issue : complete, including \$200 and the following with inverted medallions, 1, 2, 5, 10, 50c, 70c, \$1, \$5 ;

“ Third issue : inverted medallions : 2c, 5c, 30c ;

“ Proprietary, \$1 and \$5, unused, o.g. ; inverted medallions : 1, 2 and 3c ;

“ 1878, rouletted, 5c, unused, o.g. ;

The list given above will present some idea of the extent of the collection in question, and those who are looking for fine specimens of United States stamps should await this opportunity before purchasing elsewhere. Almost every stamp in the collection is in as perfect condition as can be desired by the most fastidious.

We have also some other sales in view, but are not as yet prepared to furnish any details.

## COMMUNICATION.

### EDITOR AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY :

In the October number of the JOURNAL you kindly gave me space for a letter concerning certain articles, editorial and otherwise, in the *Post Office*. To my letter the editor of the *Post Office* has made reply and explanation, both courteous and satisfactory.

Mr. Capen calls my attention to the fact that the article of which I

particularly complained was not a special article but a part of the "Descriptive Catalogue of United States Postage Stamps" now running in his journal, and that it is not customary to give credit in catalogues to the sources of the information contained in them. This I must admit and, therefore, that my remarks were hasty and not sufficiently considered. Nor do I doubt for a moment the correctness of Mr. Capen's claims that he has been studying the *premières gravures* of 1861. Anyone who has read his careful and elaborate articles on U. S. stamps can well believe that there is little concerning the stamps of this country which has escaped his attention.

I will thank you to publish this letter in the JOURNAL, since silence on my part might be construed to mean that I am "sulking in my tent" or am not sufficiently manly to acknowledge a mistake when it is pointed out.

Furthermore, it is but fair to Mr. Capen that your circle of readers (which may not be the same as that of the *Post Office*) should hear both sides of the question.

Thanking you for your courtesy, I am,  
Respectfully yours,

JOHN N. LUFF.

## REVIEW.

### THE STAMPS OF BARBADOS.

BY MESSRS. E. D. BACON AND F. H. NAPIER.

Published by STANLEY GIBBONS, LTD., London.

This is quite the most valuable contribution to philatelic literature in some time. And it is good reading. The element of dryness, too often apparent in such works, is conspicuously absent. Facts and dates are blended with interesting observations and much information is given which will be welcome and useful to students, especially those who are interested in paper, printing and the mechanical details of stamp manufacture.

A notable thing about the book is the feeling that the authors speak "as one having authority." They do not guess; they know. Their dates, tables of quantities etc., are from official sources and records. Philatelists will appreciate the liberal spirit of Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., in giving their assistance and placing their records at the disposal of the authors. Collectors and writers in this country have often had cause to regret the narrowness and secretive policy of the Post Office Department and of the bank note companies who have held the contracts for printing most of our stamps. Some of us have felt the sting of official churlishness in replies to inquiries. We have also read between the lines not only indifference but ignorance of the merits of our pursuit. It is refreshing to know it is not thus everywhere.

In the introductory remarks the authors regret their inability to give us further information concerning the perforating machines used by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., which subject they opened so entertainingly in the *Saint Vincent* handbook. But we are promised the benefit of their researches, when they shall have been brought to a satisfactory termination. This will be awaited with pleasurable anticipation by all collectors of British Colonial stamps.

In this part of the book our attention is called to the fact that Barbados was the first British colony to adopt a half penny rate and issue a stamp of that denomination, which example was not followed by the mother country

for over eighteen years. Within the past year this progressive step has been repeated by the adoption of the farthing rate for local postage on newspapers.

Following the introductory remarks we find the reference list, which is very concise and carefully priced.

Then comes the most interesting part of the book, the notes. Section I. is largely devoted to a description of the paper used for the first issues. I take the liberty of quoting: "The unwatermarked paper used for Barbados was manufactured from fine rags and new pieces at Rush Mill, near Northampton. It was a hand-made paper with deckle edges on all four sides of the sheet, one surface only of which was rolled. In color it is a greyish-white, and it is entirely without watermark, even the makers' name being omitted. It was made by the same firm that held the contract for supplying the paper for the first One Penny and Two Pence stamps of Great Britain, of which stamps Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., were themselves the printers. The paper used for the Barbados stamps was identical in every respect with that of these two early stamps of Great Britain, save that it was unwatermarked, and the sheets for both countries were of the same size."

In explanation of the great variation in thickness of this paper we are told that "it has been stated that each ream of five hundred sheets of paper had to scale the same weight; and that as the process of paper-making by hand precluded the possibility of exact uniformity of weight, some sheets were purposely made considerably thicker or thinner than others, so that they could be used to raise or lower the weight of each ream to the required standard."

Our attention is called to the "blueing" of the paper of the early stamps, as with the first two values of Great Britain. The early stamps of both countries were the work of the same printers and made with the same or similar inks, and in both the blueing gradually disappeared on the discovery and correction of the cause.

Frequent reference is made to the "great find of unused early Colonial stamps that took place some seven years ago." The writer has frequently wished that some one acquainted with the details of this find (?) would make them known. It has been hinted that this was more than a find and that, were the facts published, we should have both an interesting story and a surprising list of the stamps comprising the lot. The authors express the opinion that in listing some of the stamps of this find they "have treated them with a consideration they probably do not deserve." I concur.

To my mind the most interesting thing in the book is the lengthy and careful description of the various star-watermarked papers, used for the stamps of this and other Colonies.

I cannot refrain from making another quotation at this point. "As we have never met with an account of paper moulds in any philatelic work, it will perhaps be as well for us to give a short description of them here. The surface of the mould consists of very fine 'gauze-wire cloth,' which is tightly stretched by a wooden frame. The watermarks are composed of wire, which is bent to the pattern required, and each separate star, letter, etc., which is technically known by the name of 'bit,' is securely fastened in the correct position on the gauze surface. The other portion of the mould consists of what is called the 'deckle,' from which the rough edges of hand-made paper take their name. The 'deckle' is merely a plain narrow wooden movable frame, which is made to fit on to and around the four sides of the mould; and in case of double moulds, such as those from which both the star papers were made, the 'deckle,' although one frame, is, as it were, divided into two,

in order to cover the sides of the two halves of the mould which adjoin each other. A paper-maker works with two moulds and one 'deckle.' After he has made a sheet, or, in the case of a double mould, two sheets of paper, he passes the mould to an attendant called a 'coucher,' who proceeds to take the paper off and to clean the mould in readiness for the paper-maker, who in the meantime is employed making paper on the second mould."

This is only a brief extract from the description of the star-watermarked papers, but it shows the quality of the work. To quote more would be unfair to the authors and detract from the pleasure of their readers. Any collector who has puzzled over these stars will appreciate the lucid descriptions given of them.

One finishes with a sigh of satisfaction the chapter devoted to the five shillings stamps surcharged "1d." They are described in such a quiet easy way that it seems they should never again cause the least trouble. And then one turns to those two pages of illustrations and sighs again; but it is not the same kind of a sigh.

The descriptions of the various perforations and of the machines used to make the later ones are very clear and concise. Throughout the book are many interesting paragraphs about dates, colors, split-stamps, imperforates of doubtful merit, the one shilling blue error (heretofore undescribed), the so-called lithographic transfers from engraved plates and similar topics; all of which will prove of much value to collectors who wish to know more than can be learned from the perfunctory descriptions of priced catalogues.

As in previous handbooks, tables from the records of the printers close the volume.

The paper, printing and illustrations leave nothing to be desired.

We congratulate Messrs. Bacon and Napier on having produced an interesting book, full of valuable facts and details, which they have placed before us in a thoroughly readable and enjoyable form.

It is a work which no student of stamps or collector of British colonials should fail to read.

JOHN N. LUFF.

### THE MARKET.

Auction sale of Cheveley & Co., October 14th and 15th, 1896.

Ceylon, 2r 50c, lightly postmarked,	\$ 12.50
St. Helena, perf. 12½, 4d carmine, double surcharge, the first 18 mm. long, the second 19 mm., used,	22.75
Victoria, 5sh blue on yellow, superb specimen,	21.25
British Columbia, perf., 12½, \$1.00, unused, o.g.,	13.00
United States, 1856 90c blue, unused,	18.00
" very fine used specimen,	25.00
Barbados, small Star, 6d vermilion, unused,	10.50
" 5sh rose,	10.00
Nevis, lithographed, 6d superb unused specimen, o.g.,	75.00
St. Christopher, 6d olive brown, used,	13.00
St. Lucia, 1896, 1sh orange brown, used,	18.00
" another one,	11.00
St. Vincent, 4d yellow, unused,	10.50
Virgin Islands, 1sh, single lined border, unused, o.g.,	21.85

## Auction sale of Bogert &amp; Durbin Co., October 24th, 1896.

United States, 1860, 90c unused,	\$ 13.20
“ Justice, 90c, good used copy,	18.50
“ Executive, 6c, unused,	11.00
“ State, \$2, used,	13.00
“ Revenue, \$200, first issue, perf.,	13.00
“ Proprietary, 50c, used,	13.00
“ “ \$1.00, somewhat dirty,	34.00
“ “ \$5.00, used, very fine,	226.00

## Auction sale of Puttick &amp; Simpson, October 26th and 27th, 1896.

Great Britain, 9d bistre, plate 3, with hairlines, used but rather soiled,	\$13.50
“ 2sh red brown, very fine,	13.00
United States, 1857, 90c blue, unused, no gum,	15.75
“ 1869, 90c,	10.50
Barbados, 5sh rose,	10.50
“ another one,	11.00
“ still another,	10.00
Dominica, 1sh, CA.,	13.00
Montserrat, CA., 4d blue,	11.50
St. Christopher, 6d gray, unused,	11.00
“ another one, used,	11.50
St. Lucia, Star, 4d blue, unused,	15.00
“ 83, 1sh orange, postally used,	14.85
“ another one, unused,	18.00
St. Vincent, 1sh rose, large perf., unused, o.g.,	37.50
“ 5sh rose, well centered, unused no gum,	57.50
Tobago, CC, 6d, small ink stain,	11.00
“ another one, o.g.,	12.50
“ another one, used,	10.00
“ CA. 6d ochre, used but rather browned by gum,	31.25
Virgin Islands, 6d rose, perf., 15, unused,	25.00
“ 1sh double lined border, unused,	17.50
“ single lined border, unused,	11.25
Brazil, 1844, 300r black, very fine,	15.00
British Honduras, 6d yellow, unused, o.g.,	11.50

## Auction sale of Cheveley &amp; Co., November 2nd, 1896.

Bremen, imperf., 7gr, used,	\$12 50
Great Britain, 1sh octagonal, unused, o.g., partly split by one of the silk threads,	23.00
“ £5, used,	12.00
Wurtemberg, 70kr dark lilac,	14.00
“ 70kr lilac,	12.00
Ceylon, 9d imperf., very fine,	12.50
Buenos Ayres, 3p green, unused, cut rather close,	21.85
Nevis, 1sh yellow green,	15.00
“ 6d olive, lithographed, unused, o.g., with margin of sheet attached,	77.50
New Brunswick, 6d yellow, beautiful unused specimen,	60.00
“ 6d yellow and half of 3d, used, on portion of letter,	21.25
Nova Scotia, 1d, unused,	10.50
United States, 1856, 90c, unused, o.g.,	18.75
Virgin Islands, 1sh, single lined border, used specimen,	16.85

Auction of the Walter S. Scott Stamp Co., November 10th, 1896.

United States, 1851, 5c red brown, magnificent copy,	\$11.25
" 1861, 5c yellow brown, unused, splendid copy,	26.00
" 1869, 24c green and purple, unused,	11.25
" 90c black and carmine, unused, slight tear at top,	21.00
" Re-issue, 5c blue,	10.25
" 30c blue and carmine.	16.20
" Periodical, \$36,	17.00
" Executive, 6c, unused,	14.25
" Justice, 24c, unused,	10.25
" 30c, unused,	17.00
" State, 90c,	10.50
Barbados, 1873, 5sh,	11.25
British Honduras, 6d yellow,	10.75
" 1sh gray,	12.00
Canada, 7½d, magnificent copy,	17.50
Monaco, 1885, 5fr, unused,	10.00
St. Lucia, CA, 6d lilac, unused,	16.25
St. Vincent, 1883, 4d ultramarine, unused,	11.50
Wurtemberg. 70kr red violet, used,	15.00

## NATIONAL PHILATELICAL SOCIETY.

*Organized 1874. Incorporated 1892.*

Meetings held Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month, at Collectors Club, 351 Fourth Ave., at 8 P. M.

### OFFICERS.

*President*, J. N. T. LEVICK, 54 William Street, New York. *Secretary*, W. F. GREGORY, 11 Park Row, New York.

*Vice-President*, R. R. BOGERT, 160 Nassau Street, New York.

*Treasurer*, MAX MEYENBERG, 58 Eighth Street, Hoboken, N. J.

### COMMITTEES.

*Entertainment* { R. R. BOGERT,  
H. GREMMEL,  
CHAS. D. W. DREW.

*Finance* { M. C. BERLEPSCH,  
WALTER S. SCOTT  
A. L. BAIRD.

*House* { GEO. R. TUTTLE,  
JOS. S. RICH,

*Membership* { C. L. MORREAU,  
H. COLLIN,

*Librarian*, J. S. RICH, 480 Manhattan Avenue, New York.

*Exchange Manager*, M. C. BERLEPSCH, Nathalie Ave., Kingsbridge, N. Y.

November 2, 1896.

Special meeting of the Society held in the new room at the Collectors Club was called to order by President Levick.

Present : Messrs. Andreini, Berlepsch, Bogert, Boucher, Brevoort, Bruner, Chittenden, Drew, C. Gregory, W. F. Gregory, Krassa, Levick, Luff, Lyndes, Dr. Mitchell, Dr. Nascher, Dr. Hill, Perrin, Rich, J. W. Scott, Tuttle.

As visitors, M. Hayden, Dr. Berle.

Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

Entertainment Committee reported progress as to anniversary.

Mr. Luff exhibited his marvelous gathering of United States stamps. The display of gems was a surprise and pleasure to the members of the Society beyond the descriptive powers of the Secretary.

The thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Luff.

A vote of thanks was also extended to the Governors of the Club for their courtesy in opening the rooms to the Society.

After an exceedingly enjoyable meeting adjournment was had at 10.30.

W. F. GREGORY, *Secretary*.

November 10th, 1896.

The 65th, meeting of the Corporation and 313th, of the Society was called to order at 7.45. In the absence of all officers. Mr. George was chosen President pro tem.

The Entertainment Committee reported that they had provided for the anniversary by holding a sociable on evening of January 12th. Report accepted.

The officers immediately arriving, a short intermission was allowed that the Trustees might consider important business.

Session being recalled with the following present, Messrs. Andreini, Blake, Bogert, Brevoort, Berlepsch, Collin, Drew, Davison, George, Gregory, Gremmel, Dr Hill, Krassa, Luff, Lynde, Mead, Parker, Peterson, Perrin, Weed and Williams.

The Trustees reported the election of new members as follows :

Jules C. Cretin. Martin Hayden, Rev. Samuel Alman, R. L. Coursen.

As many of those present desired to attend the Auction Sale in the assembly room, the meeting was adjourned at 8.30.

W. F. GREGORY, *Secretary*.

November 24th, 1896.

The 66th, meeting of the Corporation and 314th of the Society was called to order promptly at 8 o'clock by President Levick.

Present—Messrs. Andreini, Berlepsch, Dr. Betz, Black, George, Gregory, Hayden, Dr. Hyatt, Lynde, Luff, Krassa, Levick, Rich, W. Scott, Trafford, Tuttle and Williams.

Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

Trustees reported the election of the following as active members : H. S. Bellinger, David J. Seligman and Percy Gray Doane. Also as proposed Dr. T. S. Bronsor of New Haven, as active member, and Bradford C., Church, Duluth, Minn., as corresponding member.

Mr. Rich as a special committee to confer with committee of the Manhattan Society reported the arrangement which had been agreed upon between them. Upon motion the report of the committee was approved.

Mr. Krassa presented to the Society, sundry conveniences, such as benzine cup, tongs, etc., which were accepted and a vote of thanks extended.

The auction sale consisted of good stamps and sold generally at fair prices, though some were very cheap.

The total amount realized was \$39.44. It was a very encouraging feature of the sale that the lots were all sold, not being protected by the owners in any degree.

W. F. GREGORY, *Secretary*.

As our next meeting, December 8th, will be the annual meeting and the annual election of officers will be held, a large attendance is expected and a specially attractive sale is promised of 25 lots only.

M. C. BERLEPSCH, *Auction Manager*.

